

A
LETTER

FROM A

Revolutioner

TO

The Earl of I---y.

*Oh! Liberty, thou Goddess heav'nly bright;
Profuse of Bliss, and pregnant with Delight.
Eternal Pleasures in thy Presence reign;
And smiling Plenty leads thy wanton Train.*

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A Letter from a Revolutioner to the Earl of I----y.

Ed'. Sept. 28. 1714.

MY LORD,



HE Town has been, lately, very much amus'd and surpriz'd, for some Time, by one of the strangest and most extensive *Libels* that, I believe, was ever publish'd in any Age or Nation, call'd *Memoirs of the Affairs of Scotland, &c.* I once intended to have troubled your *lordship* with Remarks upon them at large, and to have enter'd upon a regular Criticism of this formidable Satyre: But I was afraid, and I made you a Present of such an Heap of absurdities and Inconsistencies, (for Beauties there are none to be found) I should deserve the Fate which the Critick, in *Boccalini's Parassus*, meets with, who presenting *Apollo* with all the Faults, Blemishes, and Imperfections of his Contemporaries, was order'd to separate some Chaff from the Corn, and rewarded with the *Chaff* for his Pains.

THE Sentence of the *God of Poetry* was just and impartial. It is infinitely easier to discover the Defects, than to disclose and set in a proper Light the hidden and conceal'd Graces of an Author: For as the Poet finely sings,

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Errors.

*Errors, like Straws, upon the Surface flow;
He that would search for Pearls must dive below.*

But alas! in our Case, it is quite otherwise; the most good natur'd Critick would want an Opportunity of exerting his Benevolence.

I design'd, *My Lord*, to have consider'd them under these Three Heads, of the *Stile*, the *Characters*, and the *Sentiments*. I could have shown that, in the First, the Author of these *Memoirs* is sometimes affected and unintelligible; sometimes swells into Nonsense and *Fustian*, and at other Times dwindles and degenerates into *Burlesque*.

THIS Art of Writing, so as not to be easily understood, has been very much improved and follow'd by several of the Moderns, who observing the general Inclination of Mankind to dive into a Secret, and the Reputation many have acquir'd by concealing their Meaning under obscure Terms and Phrases, (not to mention a certain great Poet in this Way who flourish'd lately among us) resolve, that they may be still more abstruse, to write without any Meaning at all. This Art, as it is, at present, practis'd by many eminent Authors, seems to consist in throwing so many Words, at a Venture, into different Periods, and leaving the curious Reader to find out their Meaning.

As to the Characters, *My Lord*, I might have instanc'd in a great many of them that are either false, or trifling, or inconsistent. I

shall

shall mention but one ; because the Person defam'd is one for whom I profess not only a sincere Friendship, but an extreme Veneration. He is treated with the contemptible Terms of a *rebellious Presbyterian Preacher* ; tho', in Reality, he is justly allow'd by all who know him, to be one of the best and ablest Clergymen in *Europe*.

AND then, as for the last Particular, I should perhaps have observ'd to your *Lordship*, that in the Sentiments and Reflections there are a great many *Puerilities* ; and, which I too generally find in the Writings of my Countrymen, when they attempt any Thing in *English*, a Want of Politeness and a Want of Taste. Not to mention the frequent Use of our barbarous unintelligible *Scots* Phrases and Proverbs : But this, I know, many overlook as a Trifle, and therefore I should not probably have insisted upon it. In a Word, *My Lord*, I believe, upon the whole Matter, my Opinion and Judgment of this celebrated *Libel* should have been, That it is written with a great deal of Malice, Prejudice and ill Nature, and with very little Wit.

As to these Parts of the *Memoirs* which particularly concern the Union, and the deplorable Condition this Nation is reduc'd to by it ; I'm afraid, *My Lord*, there is but too much of Truth in what he says. Nor do I despair of seeing our glorious Protestant Monarch and the *British* Parliament take our manifold Grievances into their serious Consideration, and

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enter into the most speedy and effectual Measures for alleviating and redressing them. But considering the many fatal Animosities and Divisions that have been so industriously created and fomented within this Part of the Kingdom, and which, upon Her late Majesty's *Demise*, would, in all Probability, have broke out into a Civil War, had they not by the *Union*, at least in Appearance, been reconcil'd; considering the peaceable and auspicious Establishment of the *Protestant* Family of *Hanover* upon the Throne of these Nations, and the happy Security we may justly promise our selves, as naturally consequent upon it, in the Enjoyment of our Religion and Liberty:

*Quod si non aliam venturo fata Neroni
Invenere viam; ----*

Non ultra, O superi, querimur! -----

WE ought, methinks, almost to be induc'd, upon this pleasing Survey of universal Safety and Felicity, to conceal our Uneasiness, to stifle, if possible, our Resentments, and drop our Complaints. We ought perhaps to sacrifice our private Interest to the publick Welfare, and, instead of repining at our Fate, return our hearty and sincere Thanks to *Almighty God* for a Turn of Affairs so happy and surprising, and of so great Importance to the Protestant Religion, all the World over.

WE ought all to discover, upon this Occasion, that disinterested Spirit, which we find,
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in the *Sacred Writ*, *Mephibosheth* express'd in his Answer to King *David*, after he had forfeited a considerable Part of his Estate by the Treachery of his Servant *Ziba*; *Let him take all*, says he, *for as much as my Lord the King is come in Peace into his own House.*

IN the mean time, *My Lord*, that this our Felicity may be more fully secur'd and established, I would earnestly recommend the following Particulars to the Consideration of those who elect Members for the ensuing Parliament. As this Letter only concerns *North-Britain*, I would desire them,

IN the *First* place,

To choose Men that are not Enemies to the *Presbyterian* Church-government, as it is at present, among us by Law established. I do not speak this so much with an Eye only to the Interest of *Presbytery* itself, as of the *Protestant* Religion in general, about which we cannot possibly be too careful and solicitous. 'Tis, I think, but too evident, that the Methods and Measures which have all along been pursu'd by the Adversaries of the *Presbyterian* Church in this Kingdom, are such as, had they been successful, would infallibly have prov'd destructive of the *Protestant* Religion, and the Liberty of *Europe*. I wish it could be made appear that the *Dissenters* from the establish'd Church in this Part of *Great-Britain* were Subjects as faithful to our glorious Sovereign, as those who dissent from the Church of *England*.

Secondly.

Secondly. My Lord, I would humbly advise them to choofe Men of Probity, Conduct and Eloquence; fuch as have Abilities fufficient for the difcharging fo important a Truft, and are willing to employ and exert them.

Thirdly. Men who are Lovers of their native Country, and will not be induc'd to abandon or betray it by any Consideration.

Fourthly. I would, with all poffible Submiffion, recommend to them Men of fome Age and Experience, and who are, in a particular Manner, well acquainted with the State of the Shire which they represent. I'm forry there has been fo much Reason, of late, to reproach us for fending up *pert young Fellows* to a *British Parliament*, that were hardly fit to make a Harangue in an Univerfity.

Laftly. My Lord, I would wifh fuch Perfons were chofen, as are full of the Sentiments of Honour and Liberty; fuch as underftand the Nature and Design of Government, and are able, without Prejudice or Prepoffeffion, to difcern the Felicity of our prefent Conftitution: In a Word, fuch as are true *Revolutioners*, without any trifling Diftinction of *Whig* and *Tory*; for I take both to have been equally concerned in that happy Turn given to the Affairs of *Great-Britain*, at a very dangerous and desperate Juncture, by the Arrival of King *William* in *England*, who deliver'd us from Popifh Tyranny and Arbitrary Power.

I am,

MY LORD,
Your Lordfhips, &c.